



Minnesota  
**Agri-Growth Council**

# NEWSLETTER

*Getting to the root of the matter.*

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## Agri-Growth Elects New Executive Officers to the Board of Directors

*The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Board of Directors elected new officers to the Executive Committee for a two-year term.*

The **Minnesota Agri-Growth Council** is pleased to announce the Executive Officers and Directors for 2011. The 24-member board governs the Council, representing the diversity of Minnesota's food and agriculture industry, including ex-officio representation from leadership at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the **University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences**.

The Executive Committee is chosen for a two-year term by the Board of Directors at the start of the year.

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:



**Chair:**  
**Kristin Weeks Duncanson, Owner, Duncanson Growers**

Kristin Weeks Duncanson is owner and partner of Duncanson Growers, a diversified family farm in South Central Minnesota.

The operation includes corn, soybeans, vegetables, cattle and hog production.

Additionally, Weeks Duncanson owns a consulting firm, Ag Issues Management. Previously she served as the marketing manager for Hubbard Milling Company and a legislative assistant for former Minnesota U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz.

She is a past president of the **Minnesota Soybean Growers Association**, former director of the American Soybean Association and a member of most Minnesota commodity groups. Weeks Duncanson is also a member of the Agricultural Carbon Market Working Group, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, and serves on a number of other task forces and boards.

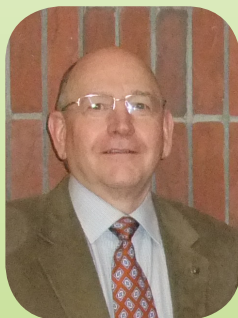
**Vice Chair:**  
**Mike Zumwinkle, Director, Government Relations, Cargill**



As a director of government relations for Cargill, Mike Zumwinkle is responsible for state government relations impacting the company's food and agriculture business. He has been with Cargill's Corporate Affairs division for more than 13 years.

Previously Zumwinkle worked for Saint John's University in institutional advancement and the U.S. Department of State. He also held a year-long U.S. Department of State Fascell Fellowship in East Germany.

A native of St. Cloud, Minnesota, Zumwinkle received a bachelor's degree in government from Saint John's University, attended the University of Leipzig and earned a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota.



**Secretary:**  
**Jim Winter, Vice President of North American Agri-Business, Ecolab**

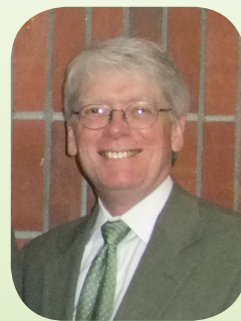
In his role as VP of North American agribusiness, James Winter is responsible for sales, services and support

of Ecolab's animal farm supply business in Canada and the United States, focusing primarily on the dairy industry.

Prior to his position at Ecolab, Winter served as general manager and corporate vice president for Alcide Corporation's global animal health business, managing director of Universal Marketing Services, Inc., and managing director of Global Production for ABS Global.

He is a past president and executive board member of the National Mastitis Council, member of the National Agri-Marketing Association, serves on the board of directors of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and is a graduate of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program. A resident of Eagan, Minnesota, Winter holds a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and a master's degree from Montana State University.

**Treasurer:**  
**Steven Krikava, Director of Government Relations, Land O' Lakes, Inc.**



Steven Krikava serves as the director of government relations for Land O'Lakes. He is responsible for identifying issues that affect the cooperative and its members, monitoring the progress of issues, and coordinating efforts to influence favorable outcomes. Krikava also manages the Land O'Lakes Political Action Committee (PAC).

His background includes more than 30 years of experience in cooperative public affairs, including communications, membership and government relations. Krikava is the past chair of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Government Affairs Committee and Minnesota Association of Cooperatives (now **Cooperative Network**) Resolutions Committee. He also serves on the Public Affairs Council Board, and the National Milk Producers Federation Legislative Work Group.

**ARTICLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Agri-Growth Elects New Executive Officers to the Board of Directors**
- **Member in Focus: Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association**
- **Save the Date: Policy Luncheons**
- **Commissioner Frederickson Joins Agri-Growth Board of Directors**

# Member In Focus

**Company:** Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA)

**Website:** [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

**Location:** Saint Paul, MN

The MSCA is an association open for membership to anyone who is interested in protecting the profitability and the future of the beef industry in Minnesota. We have over 1,000 members who represent the feeder, stocker/backgrounder, and cow-calf segments of the beef industry. We also encourage members of allied business to join the organization.



## **Q & A with Joe Martin, Executive Director:**

### **How is your organization funded?**

The MSCA is funded via membership dues of \$50 per year. We also raise funds through an auction at our annual convention and our food stand at Farmfest.

### **What is new with MSCA?**

While the organization has always been, and will continue to be, an effective advocate in addressing legislative and regulatory issues, the MSCA is focusing on developing additional membership benefits and programming in the coming years. In terms of member benefits, the MSCA is working with allied businesses to offer discounts to members and exploring volume discount purchases of certain supplies. In terms of programming we are exploring: beginning farmer and mentorship efforts; promoting value-added source-age verification programs; and promoting performance data collection and use. We are also exploring more formally organizing our associate membership into a *Minnesota Beef Alliance*.

### **What are key trends affecting your industry?**

Record high cattle prices and low cow-inventory is having a profound affect on the industry. It is uncertain if cow numbers will rebound either through increased herd size or the younger generation entering the cow-calf business. If cow numbers remain low, the entire sector will need to re-evaluate the existing structure of feeding, processing and fulfilling domestic and international markets. Another key trend is increasing export

opportunities; as well as whether or not the U.S. beef sector can and will fulfill those markets or if they will be taken by our international competitors.

Another key trend will be increasing input costs (e.g. corn, fuel, and land), and if cattle prices will remain strong enough to allow a decent profit margin.

### **What are your legislative priorities?**

One of the biggest challenges to expanding the cattle sector in Minnesota is low-cost access to grazing and forage lands. That is why one of our main legislative priorities is slowing the expansion of state and federally owned lands, and opening up existing government-owned properties to managed grazing and haying. Other state priorities include: permit reform; additional environmental cost-share dollars; state tax conformity to federal laws related to estate tax and expensing; and holding down increased property taxes.

On the federal level, our priorities include: de-listing the gray wolf and returning to state management; state-led efforts to implement premise and animal ID systems; opposing restrictions on animal care products and husbandry practices; no additional permitting requirements for dust and greenhouse gases; and ensuring the proposed GIPSA rules do not lead to the elimination of market premiums paid to cattle producers.



(From left to right) MSCA Executive Director Joe Martin, Ted Reichmann, Chairman Collin Peterson, Carol Abrahamzon and Steve May.



The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council is an advocate for the state's food and agriculture industry. Founded in 1968, the Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents the shared interests of its 200-plus members, which include food and agriculture businesses, organizations and producers, as well as the service industries that support them.

## **MINNESOTA AGRI-GROWTH COUNCIL**

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### **Staff**

**Daryn McBeth**, president

**Tony Mondry**, program manager

**Krystal Caron**, communications director



A native of Albert Lea, Minnesota, Krikava holds a bachelor's of arts in Journalism from the University of Minnesota. He also received a certificate of completion from the Harvard Agribusiness Seminar, University of Missouri Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership and the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Policy Fellowship.



#### Immediate Past Chair:

**Joe C. Swedberg, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Hormel Foods Corporation**

Joe Swedberg is vice president of legislative affairs for Hormel Foods. In this capacity, Swedberg oversees all of the company's state and federal legislative affairs.

Swedberg served as the Chair to the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council for three years.

Swedberg has been with Hormel Foods for 29 years, starting his career with the company as a sales representative in 1981. He advanced to associate product manager in the meat products group in 1984 and was promoted to product manager of consumer hams the following year. In 1988, he was named group product manager of meat products. He then continued to advance through positions in the meat products group, being named to regional sales manager in 1990, director of marketing in 1993, and vice president of marketing in 1999. He assumed his current position in 2003.

An Iowa native, Swedberg grew up on a cattle and grain farm. He received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

Swedberg also serves as a advisory board member and past chairman of the board of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, board member of the Minnesota Zoo, member of the Advisory Leadership Circle for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Farm Foundation Roundtable member and member of the Board of Trustees, Development Corporation Austin board member, and former president of the Austin YMCA board of directors. He served on Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty's Livestock and Siting Task Force from 2004-2005 and appointed by Governor Pawlenty to the Minnesota Sesquicentennial

Commission in 2006. In 2007 was named to Governor Pawlenty's Commission on New Americans.

#### DIRECTORS:

The director selection process is organized by a nomination committee with guidance from the Agri-Growth president. Selection is based upon a range of criteria, including: geographic representation, industry segment representation, and prior involvement with the Agri-Growth Council. The nomination committee submits a slate of nominees to the membership committee for final voting.

- **Allen J. Anderson**, retired, Vice President, **CHS Inc.**
- **Jim Bareksten**, Director, Governmental Affairs, **CHS Inc.**
- **Jack Bernens**, Head of Technology Acceptance, **Syngenta Seeds, Inc.**
- **Mark Davis**, CEO, **Davisco Foods International, Inc.**
- **Paul DeBriyn**, President and CEO, **AgStar Financial Services**
- **Randall J. Doyal**, CEO, **AI-Corn Clean Fuel**
- **David Frederickson**, Commissioner, **Minnesota Department of Agriculture** (*ex officio*)
- **Meg Freking**, CFO and Co-owner, **New Fashion Pork**
- **Tim Gerlach**, Director, **Minnesota Corn Growers Association**
- **Roger Gilland**, Owner, **Gilland Feedlot, Inc.**, and **Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association**
- **Mike Helgeson**, CEO, **Gold'n Plump Poultry**
- **Jerry Larson**, Owner, **Larson Farms**
- **Allen Levine**, Ph.D., Dean, **College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota** (*ex officio*)
- **Pat Lunemann**, Partner and General Manager, **Twin Eagle Dairy**; and President, **Minnesota Milk Producers Association**
- **Adolph Ojard**, Executive Director, **Duluth Seaway Port Authority**
- **Bill Reilly**, Vice President Strategic Sourcing & Materials Management, **Schwan Food Company**
- **Tom Rosen**, President and CEO, **Rosen's Diversified, Inc.**
- **Nick Sinner**, Executive Director, **Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association**
- **Michael Swanson**, Ph.D., Chief Agriculture Economist, **Wells Fargo**



#### Still Time to Register for the 2011 Policy Luncheons:

Last month the **Agri-Growth Council** hosted **Sen. Doug Magnus** and **Rep. Rod Hamilton** at the first policy luncheon in the 2011 Luncheon Series. The event drew a wide range of attendees, with one of the highest turnouts ever. There are still several policy luncheons remaining, make sure you're registered to attend!

**February 16: MPCA Commissioner Paul Aasen**

**March 2: Minnesota House Speaker Kurt Zellers**

**April 6: "Freshman" Legislator Panel**

**May 4: Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner David Frederickson**

RSVP to [info@agrigrowth.org](mailto:info@agrigrowth.org) or 651.905.8900. Cost per luncheon is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

##### Executive Officers

**Chair:** Kristin Weeks Duncanson, Duncanson Growers

**Vice Chair:** Michael Zumwinkle, Cargill

**Secretary:** Jim Winter, Ecolab

**Treasurer:** Steven Krikava, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

**Immediate Past Chair:** Joe Swedberg, Hormel Foods Corporation

##### Directors

**Allen J. Anderson**

**Jim Bareksten**, CHS, Inc.

**Jack Bernens**, Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

**Mark Davis**, Davisco Foods International, Inc.

**Paul DeBriyn**, AgStar Financial Services

**Randal J. Doyal**, AI-Corn Clean Fuel

**Commissioner David Frederickson**,

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture

**Meg Freking**, New Fashion Pork

**Tim Gerlach**, Minnesota Corn Growers Assoc.

**Roger Gilland**, Gilland Feedlots

**Michael Helgeson**, Gold'n Plump Poultry

**Jerry Larson**, Larson Farms

**Dr. Allen Levine**, University of Minnesota

**Pat Lunemann**, Twin Eagle Dairy &

Minnesota Milk Producers Association

**Adolph Ojard**, Duluth Seaway Port Authority

**Bill Reilly**, Schwan Food Company

**Tom Rosen**, Rosen's Diversified

**Nick Sinner**, Red River Sugarbeet

Growers Association

**Dr. Michael Swanson**, Wells Fargo Bank

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Boyum & Barescheer** ([www.boybarcpa.com](http://www.boybarcpa.com))

**CenterPoint Energy Services** ([centerpointenergy.com/ces](http://centerpointenergy.com/ces))

**Downs Food Group** ([www.downsfoodgroup.com](http://www.downsfoodgroup.com))

**Jen Wagner-Lahr**

**Short Elliott Hendrickson** ([www.sehinc.com](http://www.sehinc.com))

**Soyatech** ([www.soyatech.com](http://www.soyatech.com))

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March** – 2: Policy Luncheon

**April** – 6: Policy Luncheon

**May** – 4: Policy Luncheon

**June** – 8: Legislative Wrap Up

13: Annual Golf Tournament

**November** – 16: Annual Meeting

## Commissioner David Frederickson Joins Agri-Growth Board of Directors



Agriculture Commissioner Frederickson will serve as an ex-officio member of the Agri-Growth Board of Directors.

Governor Mark Dayton appointed **Dave Frederickson** to the position of Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture last month. Frederickson's family roots in farming go back to 1873, and he and his wife, Kay operated a farm in Murdock for more than 20 years.

Traditionally, the Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner serves on the **Agri-Growth Council** Board of Directors as an ex-officio member. Agri-Growth **President Daryn McBeth** was happy to welcome Commissioner Frederickson to the first board meeting of the year last month. McBeth said, "We're excited

the National Farmers Union (NFU) from 2002 to 2006. In both organizations, he worked on federal farm policy and other issues important to farmers and ranchers.

From 2007 to 2010, Frederickson worked as agricultural outreach director for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. In that capacity, he helped lead listening sessions around the state and talked frequently with Minnesota farmers, ranchers and rural residents about the federal issues that mattered most to them.

Frederickson earned a degree in education from St. Cloud State University. He also performed graduate work in special education at St. Cloud State. After graduating he taught in Mora and St. Cloud, as well as a small town in the state of Wyoming.

Commissioner Frederickson has received numerous awards and honors, including the NFU's Meritorious Award in 2009 for his years of service on behalf of Minnesota and American farmers.

Commissioner Frederickson's farm background and his wide range of experience in public service have given him unique insights into the challenges facing Minnesota's agricultural industry. As a state senator and in his positions at MFU and NFU, Frederickson earned a reputation as a strong advocate for farmers and agricultural issues, education and tax reform. Today, he is particularly focused on maintaining and building Minnesota's food safety programs and on helping Minnesota farmers deal with unstable commodity prices and rising input costs. Farm groups from around the state praise him for his personable approach and his ability to work with people of all backgrounds and perspectives toward common goals.

to work with David Frederickson and the State Department of Agriculture under his new leadership. I'm confident that Frederickson will be a strong and successful advocate for our state's food and agriculture industry."

Frederickson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1986, and was reelected to the post in 1990. He represented constituents in Swift, Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, and Redwood Counties.

From 1991 to 2002, Frederickson served as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU). He subsequently served as president of